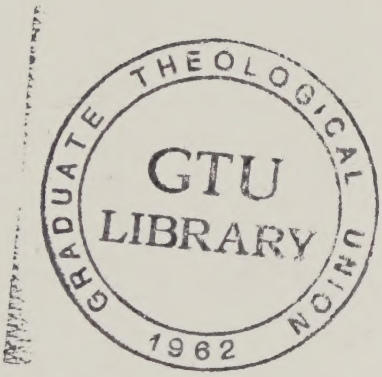
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VOLUME IX JANUARY 1935 NUMBER 1

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EDITORIAL 3

THE CHRISTIAN'S RELATION TO THE STATE IN TIME OF WAR
I. THE CHRISTIAN'S ATTITUDE TOWARD PARTICIPATION IN WAR ACTIVITIES 5
Edward Yoder

II. IS ALTERNATIVE SERVICE DESIRABLE AND POSSIBLE? 20
Guy F. Hershberger

THE ELKHART INSTITUTE MOVES TO GOSHEN 37
John Umble

BOOK REVIEWS 60

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VOLUME IX APRIL 1935 NUMBER 2

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EDITORIAL 67

THE MENNONITE MIGRATION TO NEW RUSSIA (1787—1870) 71
David G. Rempel

THE RISE AND FALL OF THE ANABAPTISTS OF MÜNSTER 92
John Horsch

BOOK REVIEW 104

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VOLUME IX JULY 1935 NUMBER 3

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EDITORIAL 107

THE MENNONITE MIGRATION TO NEW RUSSIA (1787-1870)
II. THE EMIGRATION TO RUSSIA 109
David G. Rempel

THE RISE AND FALL OF THE ANABAPTISTS OF MÜNSTER
(Concluded) 129
John Horsch

PRESIDENT GRANT AND THE MENNONITE IMMIGRATION
FROM RUSSIA 144
Ernst Correll

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VOLUME IX OCTOBER 1935 NUMBER 4

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EDITORIAL 154

THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF PILGRAM MARBECK 155
Horst Quiring

SOME SOCIAL ATTITUDES OF THE MENNONITES OF RUSSIA 165
Cornelius Krahn

ATTENDANCE AT MENNONITE SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES 1934-1935 178
Silas Hertzler

BOOK REVIEWS 191

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EDITORIAL

One of the most interesting and important personalities among the leaders of the early South German Anabaptists was Pilgram Marbeck, the Tyrolese mining engineer who almost became the theologian of the Brethren. In recent years Dr. Loserth of Graz, Austria and Christian Hege of Frankfurt A. M., Germany have made available two important theological treatises by Marbeck and have brought to light important facts about his life which are contributing toward the new picture of South German Anabaptism which is being created for us by recent scholarship. To date, no one has made use of Marbeck's writings as sources for the theology of the Brethren. The Review is glad to present in this issue as the first study of this kind, a brief study of Marbeck's anthropology by Dr. Horst Quiring, a young German Mennonite scholar and historian of Altfelde, East Prussia. It is interesting to note that Marbeck had a definite, independent anthropology, and that he was substantially orthodox in his thinking on this point, near to Luther and yet distinct from him; and distinct also from the humanistic and Catholic anthropology of the time.

The second article in this issue is also by a young European Mennonite scholar and historian, Dr. Cornelius Krahn, formerly of the Samara Mennonite colony in Russia, but resident for the last seven years in Germany and Holland. He gives us in a brief survey a picture of some of the social attitudes of the Mennonites of Russia, pointing out some of the problems which the Russian Mennonites have faced as they tried to apply the Gospel of Christ to the society in which they lived. A rich field of study in the realm of Mennonite sociology is here opened, which has been as yet very slightly developed. Mennonites have tried to Christianize their life in every respect, to make it truly a life lived in the "following" of Christ. In their endeavors to be uncompromisingly Christian they have developed social attitudes and social institutions which are distinctive, sometimes unique. Those who study this Mennonite sociology exhaustively and present careful, enlightening analyses of the material they find, are rendering a real service thereby, not only to Mennonitism, but to scholarship in general. The Review welcomes both Dr. Krahn and Dr. Quiring to its pages, and hopes they will become regular contributors.

For the seventh time, Dr. Silas Hertzler of the Goshen College faculty presents his annual study of attendance at Mennonite schools and colleges. The carefully prepared statistical tables reflect the changing tides of enrollment, and therefore to some extent, the nature of the service which Mennonite schools and colleges are rendering. It is encouraging to note the slight increase in college enrollment, although this is still considerably below the high enrollment of 1930-31. At least the tide has turned upwards, and recent reports indicate that the current year will show even better figures than last year, particularly in the enrollment of Mennonite students.

The book reviews for this issue present:

M. G. Weaver: Mennonites of Lancaster Conference.

Frank H. Simonds and Brooks Emeny: The Price of Peace.